Increase in Drug Smuggling in North Eastern States

1687. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a steep rise in drug smuggling in the North Eastern States of India from the neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by the Central Government to stop such smuggling of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) In view of their proximity to one of the major sources of supply for illicit drugs, namely, the Golden Triangle region, the North-Eastern States of India continue to be vulnerable to drug trafficking from that region. However, seizures of various drugs made during the past 3 years do not indicate any steep rise in drug smuggling in this area. The details of seizures of drugs effected in the North-Eastern States during the parst 3 years and upto February, 1989, are given below:

(Quantity in Kilograms)

S.No.	Name of drug	1986	1987	1988	1989 (upto February)
1	Opium	501	637	21	..
2	Heroin	4	3	6	..
3	Ganja	2,660	2,582	1,525	..

(Figures rounded off to the nearest Kilogram)

Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, inter alia, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug-traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of two years for drug-related crimes. 244 persons have so far been detained under the said Act.

For the purpose of preventive detention for the maximum period provided under the Act, the inland area 100 kms. in width from the Indo-Burma border in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland have been defined as areas highly vulnerable to illicit traffic. Further, the Police Officers of the North-Eastern States have been entrusted the functions of the Customs Officers under the Customs Act, 1962 for the purpose of provisions of Chapter IV-B of that Act to check the illicit movement and outward smuggling of acetic anhydride (a chemical precursor used in the illicit manufacture of heroin) which has been notified as a specified item under section 11-I of the Customs Act.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988 recently passed by Parliament, inter alia, provides for death penalty on second conviction in respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs and also forfeiture of property of drug offenders. Besides, all drug-related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Opening of branches of Syndicate Bank in Andhra Pradesh

1688. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments' consideration for opening of more branches of Syndicate Bank in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, on the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for rural and semi-urban centres and proposals submitted by banks for urban and metropolitan areas, RBI has allotted 19 rural centres and 2 metropolitan centres to Syndicate Bank for opening branches in Andhra Pradesh as per details given below:--

Name of district	No. of centres allotted
Ananthapur . .	2 (Rural)
Cuddapah . .	3 ,,
Kurnool . .	4 ,,
Nalgonda . .	2 ,,
Nellore . .	2 ,,
Prakasam . .	6 ,,
Hyderabad . .	2 (Metropolitan)
TOTAL : .	21

Foreign exchange losses due to export of certain drugs

1689. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing foreign exchange in export of certain drugs;

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cephalexin, Ethambutol, Mabendazol, Rifampicin, Dexycylin and Erythrromycin were exported in the past;

(d) if so, what are the names of the companies which had exported these drugs along with the names of the countries where the above drugs exported.

(e) what was the quantity exported and what was the price at which exported; and

(f) what were the assistance and benefits given on each of export of these drugs and what were the basis and policy kept in consideration in each case?